

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene W. Grant Councilmember Charl Jones (Excused), Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Lamar Maxwell, Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gloria L. Sistrunk, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Diamond Plater, Council Clerk, Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Operating Officer

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Kelly Porter

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Sistrunk to approve the Public Session Agenda. The motion carried, and the agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.

**1.1.5. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- It was motioned by Councilmember McCarthy and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Monday, December 10, 2018. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Sistrunk and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve the Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 3, 2018. The motion was

carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.

- It was motioned by Councilmember McCarthy and seconded by Councilmember Sistrunk to approve the Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 3, 2018. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.

## **2. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Naomi Bowman-71<sup>st</sup> Ave., Seat Pleasant, MD stated that the Vision Board party by Councilmember McCarthy was fun and the materials and guest speakers very informative. She thanked Ms. Lipford for calling to check on the seniors when the weather is bad. It is appreciated to receive the wellness calls. Ms. Bowman thanked Councilmember Sistrunk for bringing the food to the resident of Ward V doors that was prepared for the scheduled Ward V Meeting on today that was cancelled due to the weather. The State of the City Address living room set-up was nice new feature. The Robot Pepper could not be heard or understood during the State of the City. It was nice to see the avatar of Mayor Grant. If a resident is interested in remodeling their home, does it need to be remodeled using the Smart Features that the City is encouraging?
- Katrina Robinson-Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD stated that she wanted to thank the City for looking out for the seniors and ensuring that they have transportation to the City Meetings and Events. The State of the City Address, neighbors had problems with the link and seating assigned to CPAC was not the best.
- Wilhelmina Evans-64<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seat Pleasant, MD stated thanked Mayor Grant and the Council for doing a great job in the city. Ms. Evans wished everyone a Happy New Year and encouraged everyone to show love to one another.
- Dr. Belinda Carver-Taylor-Yost Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD stated that she has been trying to contact the Office of the Mayor to discuss the relocation of her Dentist Office, as they need more space. She would like to stay in Seat Pleasant with an increased in office space. The Mobile Dental Unit is sitting in College Park, MD not being used due to the cut in funding. Dr. Taylor provided the Mayor and Council with numbers to operate the Mobile Unit on a monthly basis.

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### **3. PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **3.1. None**

### **4. LEGISLATION**

#### **4.1. Ordinance O-19-06 Amendment of Chapter 118-Loitering.**

Ordinance O-19-06 was introduced by the City Council and read by City Clerk Lanham on Monday, February 4, 2019. Councilmember McCarthy requested that the penalty be changed to a criminal offense. The Council President tabled the second reading to obtain a legal opinion on the recommended change.

#### **4.2. Ordinance O-19-07 Amendment of Chapter 114-Nuisance**

**Properties.** Ordinance O-19-07 was introduced by the City Council and read by City Clerk Lanham on Monday, February 4, 2019. The second reading was conducted on Monday, February 11, 2019. It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve Ordinance O-19-07. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

#### **4.3. Ordinance O-19-08 Amendment of Chapter 84-Firearms and**

**Fireworks.** Ordinance O-19-08 was introduced by the City Council and read by City Clerk Lanham on Monday, February 4, 2019. The second reading was conducted on Monday, February 11, 2019. It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember McCarthy to approve Ordinance O-19-08. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

### **5. REPORTS:**

#### **5.1. Council President Report**

- Council President Yeargin stated that his report can be found on BoardDocs for December.

#### **5.2. Mayor Eugene W. Grant**

- Mayor Grant greeted the City Council, residents and Staff this evening. Mayor Grant stated that his report was mistakenly deleted, but he wanted to thank the City Council for their support.
- Mayor Grant stated that we are fortunate that we can work together in all areas of the government. He stated that there are some areas that we can improve upon and we have created the platform for the residents to state their pleasures and concerns. We have chosen to go

forward, and the facts will speak for themselves. Our property values are increasing, and we had decreased the vacant properties from 140 to 25.

- We have improved the stats in the police department and the commercial robberies are down by 100%. We have a strong financial status within the City of Seat Pleasant. We can meet our financial obligation every month and provide resources to the residents. The Former City Treasurer had stated that in 2004, 70% of the bills were being paid by the residents. After the increase on the taxes the resident portion is down to 50%.
- We have been meeting with members of the County Council and the US Senator and everyone that we had met with are 100% in support of the transformation of the City to a Smart City. The meeting with County Council Chair, Senator Benson, Marva Jo Camp and Acting Director Brian Bailey and she stated that she needs the city support on the bill, as they were met with opposition on the delegate side. We are waiting on the bill to be heard on the House side. Mayor Grant provided the telephone number to Senator Benson office to call her office to inform them that you are in support of the HB188 and PG409-19.
- Mayor Grant stated that we cannot force a business to stay within the City. We were not informed that Safeway was leaving when they left the city. The negotiations with the other grocery store will not work for the city. They met with Horning Brothers and Senator Benson had mentioned that she was happy to see someone from the City. Mayor Grant stated that we had complaints from Ward I regarding a property that will be demolished soon. As a Government we must comply and follow the rules. We will be moving forward with the renovations of City Hall and we must follow the rules of USDA. We need everyone to understand the process.
- Mayor Grant state that he had received a warning from the Former Code Enforcement Officer regarding his grass and he as the Mayor complied and had his grass cut in accordance to the Code of the City.
- Mayor Grant stated that we have some positive things that are happening. We will have a large education component at Seat Pleasant Day, which is coming up soon. The Police Department will be expanding their operations. We will be making some major announcements this week. Public Works is doing a fine job keeping the city clean. We know we are down a few staff persons and we will

be filling those positions soon. Economic Development has had some challenges, he has been interviewing candidates for the position. They will exceed their numbers for grants. NCC has been doing a great job. The finance department is doing a great job and will be scanning past data that we have to view on line. The Human Resources Department has done a phenomenal job with getting the department fully automated. They will be bringing some information on retirement, as we have people who have worked for over 30 years and cannot afford to retire. The City Clerk department has been away in training to continue to sharpen her skills and on vacation for three weeks. she has scanned records from 1936-1946 and need to scan records from 1947-2007. Mrs. Wallace is doing a great job with keep us straight and the check and balances makes the difference. The Public Engagement department has been reaching out to residents. Please read the reports.

- Dr. Taylor stated they she needs to move out due to small space. She wanted to stay within Seat Pleasant but cannot find a space large enough to accommodate her needs. The mobile dental unit has been stored since Trump has been in office. The unit is in Greenbelt, MD and she hopes that Seat Pleasant can get the unit to provide free dental services. She has a big dream and big goals to assist the graduating students from Howard to rent a chair.
- Mayor Grant has requested that Dr. Taylor contact Brian Bailey tomorrow to assist with finding space of 1600 to rent. Please contact Director Lipford regarding the van, as it will be nice to have it at Seat Pleasant Day on the 1st Saturday in May. Dr. Taylor stated that the mobile dental unit is under the health department and the budget was cut immediately under Trump. The grant was \$465,000 for the year. The cost to run the dental van per month is \$5,000 per month and \$60,000 per year. Dr. Taylor stated that there are companies that will pay. Mayor Grant stated that they will have a conversation with SPICE to see if there is a vertical that can fund the resource.
- Council President Yeargin requested an update on the City Hall and Public Works renovation. Mayor Grant stated they mailed the packet to USDA for review and they require 30 days to review. The ordering of the elevator takes 14 weeks and the ordering of the steel and the curtain wall can slow the project. The microgrid may slow us down as well. We have received grants to pay for the microgrid study and the avatar.

### **5.3. Chief Operating Officer Report-Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Operating Officer Report**

- Mrs. Wallace greeted the Mayor, Council, citizens and staff.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that several years ago the Mayor and City Council established seven strategic goals/outcomes and the departments has completed the requirements by 87%. We have increased the overall revenue, reduced the crime and financial revenue has been received from property taxes, and fender base funding.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINSS**

### **6.1. None**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1. 6607 Variance Request**

- Mrs. Wallace stated that when there are additions or construction on a property the Board and/or the County will send notice to the City to request a variance. Mrs. Wallace stated that a retainer wall and a driveway was being installed. They have paid the appropriate fees and had the proper permits from the City and the County. They made a second story addition on the home.
- Mr. Saravia stated that he removed the wall and sixteen trucks of trash from the property. The variance was required for the deck and the rear of the yard.
- Mr. Hector Saravia stated that he purchased the property at 6607 Greig St., which was a burnt property. He acquired the proper permits from the County and the City.
- Councilmember Love stated that she has received several complaints from the other residents with regards to the water running off the property.
- Mr. Saravia stated that it has been raining a lot and he had installed field grading.
- Richard Baslie represents Veteran Affairs and they hired an engineer provided a report stating that the water flows due to the ten-foot drop and the house was 60 years old. The deck is a few feet short for the type of yard. They are checking with the engineer to see if there is anything they can do to prevent the water from running off. The concrete wall made the water worst and he had water proof the property.



- Ms. Christine Tapsoda stated that she has not experienced water running off on her property prior to the renovation.
- Mr. Saravia stated that he has completed the required drainage prevention on the property.
- Mayor and Council President stated to Mr. Saravia that they will respond to him regarding the requirements or additional improvements of the property.

## **7.2. Council Events**

- Council President Yeargin stated that he had received a couple of text and/or phone calls about the events of the City Council spilling over into the budget.
- The budget was not approved to accommodate the events with regards to staff salary. It was stated that the staff cannot assist with the set-up for the meetings.
- Council President submitted an e-mail apologizing for mis-stating information during the meeting regarding the budget and staff.

## **8 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**8.1 Ward V Monthly Meeting, Monday, February 11, 2019, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD at 9:30am**

**8.2 Outdoor Ice-Skating Party, Saturday, February 23, 2019, Goodwin Park, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD from 11:00am-3:00pm**

**8.3 Ward II Quarterly Meeting, Monday, February 25, 2019, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00pm**

**8.4 Regular Work Session, Monday, March 4, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00pm**

**8.5 District 24 Night, Monday, March 4, 2019, Miller Senate Office Building, President Conference Room I and II, Annapolis, MD from 6:00pm-8:00pm**

**8.6 Public Session, Monday, March 11, 2019 Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 7:00pm**

**8.7 National League of Cities-Congressional City-Conference, Sunday, March 10-Wednesday, March 13, 2019, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel-2660 Woodley Rd., NW, Washington, DC**

**8.8 Confirmation Hearing, Monday, March 18, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00pm**

- 8.9. Regular Work Session, Monday, April 1, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00pm**
- 8.10 PGCMA Wine & Cheese, Friday, April 5, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00pm**
- 8.11 Ward II Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, April 6, 2019, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 10:00am-12:00pm**
- 8.12 FY2019-2020 Budget Hearing, Monday, April 8, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00pm**
- 8.13 Constant Yield Hearing, Monday, April 8, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:30pm**
- 8.14 Public Session, Monday, April 8, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 7:00pm**
- 8.15 FY2019-2020 Budget Hearing, Saturday, April 13, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD from 10:00am-11:30am**
- 8.16 FY2019-2020 Budget Review, Saturday, April 13, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD from 12:00pm-5:00pm**
- 8.17 Ward V Monthly Meeting, Monday, April 15, 2019, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 9:30am-11:30am**
- 8.18 Ward I Appreciation Day, Saturday, April 20, 2019, Mount Victory Baptist Church, 6020 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 12:00pm-5:00pm**

**9. ADJOURN-**

The Public Session meeting adjourned at 9:21p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC  
City Clerk